

AFGHANISTAN



USCENTCOM

FUSION CELL

SOVIET LOGISTICS IN
AFGHANISTAN



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UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33608-7001

CCCS-F

26 OCT 87

FOREWORD

This study addresses the development of Soviet logistic operations in Afghanistan. It highlights their successes and failures and it identifies operational procedures which may be applicable to other Soviet forces operating in similar environments.

(U) Comments, questions, and corrections should be addressed to Afghan Fusion Cell (CCCS-F), US Central Command, AV 968-6580, KY3-9287 or NSTS (Gray) 991-6172.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas A. Loken', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

THOMAS A. LOKEN
Col USAF
Chief, FUSION Cell

INTRODUCTION

This paper discusses the doctrine, organization, operations and control of the Soviet logistic forces in Afghanistan. Emphasis is placed on what the Soviets are doing, the lessons learned and their potential for application outside Afghanistan.

To aid in understanding logistic activity in Afghanistan, the following outline provides a brief review of Soviet logistics doctrine:

The principles of centralized planning, forward delivery, utilization of local and captured material, and unit rotation significantly differ from US concepts of logistic support. Consequently these principles will be amplified and their implementation in Afghanistan (vs. Soviet doctrine) compared in the following paragraphs.

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MATERIAL SUPPORT UNIT CONCEPT

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ORGANIZATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

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Because no railroads exist in Afghanistan and terrain, weather and the threat of surface to air missiles limit the use of aircraft, resupply by truck transport is vital to Soviet logistics. Motor transport however is especially vulnerable to equipment and route deterioration and convoy interdiction. This is especially true in Afghanistan where only two roads are available for the movement of supplies southward from the USSR.

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TRANSSHIPMENT POINTS

Thus far, Soviet logistic doctrine and the organization of support forces in Afghanistan have been addressed. Succeeding paragraphs focus on the conduct of logistic operations.

OPERATIONS

MOTOR TRANSPORT

PAGE 13
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AIR TRANSPORTATION

SUPPLY OPERATIONS

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MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

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COMMAND AND CONTROL

CONCLUSIONS

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